

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 31, 45-48 are amended. Claims 42-44 are cancelled. Claims 49-68 are added. The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

Claims 1-30 (Cancelled.)

Claim 31. (Currently amended.) A variant of a parent Fungamyl-like alpha-amylase, comprising an alteration at one or more regions selected from the group consisting of region 98-110 and region 161-167,

wherein (a) the alteration(s) are independently

- (i) an insertion of an amino acid downstream of the amino acid which occupies the position,
- (ii) a deletion of the amino acid which occupies the position, or
- (iii) a substitution of the amino acid which occupies the position with a different amino acid,

(b) the variant has alpha-amylase activity; and (c) each region or position corresponds to a region or position of the amino acid sequence of the parent Fungamyl-like alpha-amylase having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 and (d) wherein variant has at least 90% identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 32. (Previously presented.) The variant of Claim 31, wherein the variant further includes the following substitution: Q153S.

Claim 33. (Previously presented.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the variant has improved thermostability and/or increased stability at acidic pH.

Claim 34. (Previously presented.) A composition for producing high maltose syrup comprising the variant of claim 31.

Claim 35. (Previously presented.) A dough improving composition, comprising the variant of claim 31.

Claim 36. (Previously presented.) A brewing composition, comprising the variant of claim 31.

Claim 37. (Previously presented.) The brewing composition of claim 41, further comprising at least one enzyme selected from the group consisting of beta-amylase and isoamylase enzymes.

Claim 38. (Previously presented.) A composition for producing alcohol, comprising the variant of claim 31.

Claim 39. (Previously presented.) The variant of claim 31 wherein said variant is immobilized.

Claim 40. (Previously presented.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the alteration is an alteration in Region 98-110.

Claim 41. (Previously presented.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the alteration is an alteration in Region 161-167.

Claim 42. (Cancelled.)

Claim 43. (Cancelled.)

Claim 44. (Cancelled.)

Claim 45 (Previously presented.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the ~~parent Fungamyl-like~~ alpha-amylasevariant has at least 93% identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 46 (Previously presented.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the ~~parent Fungamyl-like~~ alpha-amylasevariant has at least 95% identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 47. (Previously presented.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the ~~parent Fungamyl-like~~ alpha-amylasevariant has at least 97% identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 48. (Previously presented.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the ~~parent Fungamyl-like~~ alpha-amylasevariant has at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 49. (New.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the variant comprises an alteration at a position corresponding to position 98 in SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 50. (New.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the variant comprises an alteration at a position corresponding to position 99 in SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 51. (New.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the variant comprises an alteration at a position corresponding to position 100 in SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 52. (New.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the variant comprises an alteration at a position corresponding to position 101 in SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 53. (New.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the variant comprises an alteration at a position corresponding to position 102 in SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 54. (New.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the variant comprises an alteration at a position corresponding to position 103 in SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 55. (New.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the variant comprises an alteration at a position corresponding to position 104 in SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 56. (New.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the variant comprises an alteration at a position corresponding to position 105 in SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 57. (New.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the variant comprises an alteration at a position corresponding to position 106 in SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 58. (New.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the variant comprises an alteration at a position corresponding to position 107 in SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 59. (New.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the variant comprises an alteration at a position corresponding to position 108 in SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 60. (New.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the variant comprises an alteration at a position corresponding to position 109 in SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 61. (New.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the variant comprises an alteration at a position corresponding to position 110 in SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 62. (New.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the variant comprises an alteration at a position corresponding to position 161 in SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 63. (New.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the variant comprises an alteration at a position corresponding to position 162 in SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 64. (New.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the variant comprises an alteration at a position corresponding to position 163 in SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 65. (New.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the variant comprises an alteration at a position corresponding to position 164 in SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 66. (New.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the variant comprises an alteration at a position corresponding to position 165 in SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 67. (New.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the variant comprises an alteration at a position corresponding to position 166 in SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 68. (New.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the variant comprises an alteration at a position corresponding to position 167 in SEQ ID NO:2.